

Provo Canyon—William W. Ferguson was born August 28, 1835, in Glasgow, Scotland. He came to Utah as a very young man, experiencing the usual hardships, and working his way across land and sea.

He worked for a number of years in the gold mines of Nevada. When he had saved enough money, he purchased a large farm about three miles south of the mouth of Provo Canyon.

In April, 1889, the Provo Canyon Toll Co. hired William to take care of the toll gate, which was then located near Spring Dell. Just opposite the Fisherman's House, near Bridal Veil Falls, some distance beyond the toll gate, he built a home, where he spent most of his time in caring for the travelers. He provided good sleeping quarters, or allowed travelers to bring their bedding and stay for the night. Their teams were also well cared for. He was an excellent cook, and his reputation spread rapidly. In time, he added a store to his hotel, and his place was known to many as "Billie Ferguson's Half-way House." The jolly proprietor also offered entertainment to his guests by singing and playing on his banjo. He is remembered for his specialty act of dancing in his full native kilts with a glass of water on his head, never spilling a drop. His hotel was a refuge for wild animal life, which "Billie" loved, and he, himself, could summon most of his animal friends, much to the enjoyment of his traveling guests.

The winter of 1897 was exceptionally severe, and on February 19 a large snow slide came down the mountain slope, crossed over on the opposite side of the canyon, and on its return, demolished the hotel and killed William Ferguson, who lay sleeping in his bed. The hotel has never been rebuilt, but it is one of Provo's fondest memories.—Elizabeth Ferguson.

—Heart Throbs, Carter.

THE LEATHER INDUSTRY OF THE PIONEERS

The pioneers had not been long in their new homes in the Rocky Mountains before the necessity for the development of home industries became apparent. Their isolated position and remoteness from sources of supplies, together with the wear and tear of frontier life on equipment and clothing brought about the need of some means of replenishing such articles as had been brought with them. The result was the establishment of many home industries, not for material gain so much as to supply the needs of the people and to make the community self-supporting and independent.

The advice of Brigham Young to the people was that they produce what they consumed. That they do not indulge in expensive luxuries that would involve them in debt, but rather to produce through their own industries every necessary article for home consumption. Conse-

—*Memories That Live*